

**REMARKS**

Claims 57-99 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 57-61, 63-65, 74, 83, 85, 86, 90 and 99 are amended.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiners Holmes and Pang in the May 14, 2009 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 61-91 and 94-99.

Claims 57-60, 92 and 93 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hayabuchi et al. ("Hayabuchi"), U.S. Patent No. 6,723,018, in view of Kasuya et al. ("Kasuya"), U.S. Patent No. 6,139,463. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, the combination of Hayabuchi and Kasuya fails to disclose or suggest the last four paragraphs of claim 57. Applicants explain in detail below the differences between claim 57 and the applied references.

Page 3 of the Office Action identifies Hayabuchi's control clutch C-5 (Fig. 12) as the fourth clutch of claim 57. Applicants disagree. The fourth clutch of claim 57 is capable of transmitting the input rotation into the first rotation element. On the other hand, Hayabuchi's control clutch C-5 transmits a reduced-speed rotation to a connecting member 74 (col. 16, lines 32-36). Therefore, the fourth clutch of claim 57 and Hayabuchi's control clutch C-5 are different in function. Thus, as agreed during the personal interview, Hayabuchi's control clutch C-5 does not correspond to the fourth clutch of claim 57.

Because Hayabuchi fails to disclose the fourth clutch of claim 57, Hayabuchi fails to disclose or suggest the arrangement defined by the last four paragraphs of claim 57. For example, Hayabuchi fails to disclose or suggest the outer circumferential side linking path and the inner circumferential side linking path, which links the fourth clutch, of claim 57.

As also agreed during the personal interview, Hayabuchi's Fig. 12 is a skeleton diagram. Therefore, even if Kasuya was combined with Hayabuchi (which Applicants do not admit would have been obvious), the combination fails to suggest the last four paragraphs of claim 57 because a skeleton diagram fails to disclose or suggest the actual position of the structure.

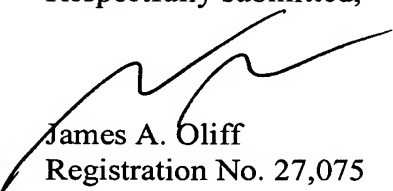
In addition, the combination of Hayabuchi and Kasuya fails to achieve the advantages of new claim 57 because the combination of features (for example, the outer circumferential side linking path and the inner circumferential side linking path) are not described by Hayabuchi and Kasuya. According to claim 57, as a result that the hydraulic servo of the fourth clutch is disposed between the planetary gear set and the planetary gear, and the hydraulic servo of the third clutch is disposed on the side opposite from the planetary gear set as to the hydraulic servo of the fourth clutch, the inner circumferential side linking path could pass through the inner circumferential side of the fourth clutch. Thus, claim 57 can achieve an advantage in that the inner circumferential side linking path that rotates due to the reduced speed rotation can be placed on the inner circumferential side, and a large transmitting torque is input. In addition, the outer circumferential side linking path, which has the capability of input rotation, can be placed on the outer circumferential side and the various linking members that link these clutches and the various rotation elements of the planetary gear set can be made relatively thin and a light-weight item can be designed. In addition, the weight reduction and improved controllability of the vehicle automatic transmission can be designed (see paragraph [0364] of Applicants' original specification).

In view of all of the above arguments, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 57-99 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:  
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: May 26, 2009

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